

**THREE-YEAR SUSPENSION. Francine R. Solomon, No. 361, 2005. Effective March 1, 2005.**

On October 26, 2005, the Delaware Supreme Court ordered that Francine R. Solomon be suspended from the practice of law for three years, effective from March 1, 2005 to March 1, 2008. While the Board on Professional Responsibility (“Board”) recommended that Solomon be permitted to voluntarily cease practicing law for three years, the Court concluded that she be suspended for three years in view of her prior disciplinary record.

In April 1999 Solomon received a Public Reprimand. As part of the Public Reprimand, she was placed on probation for four years and the Court imposed permanent conditions on her practice of law. In April 2004, the Court extended her probation for an additional year to February 11, 2005, finding she had failed to act diligently in connection with a Family Court matter. In March 2005 the Court imposed a six-month suspension because Solomon failed to provide competent representation to a client in connection with a Family Court matter in 2003 in violation of her probation.

In the present matter, Solomon violated several Delaware Lawyers’ Rules of Professional Conduct, including **Rule 1.1** (failure to provide competent representation); **Rule 1.3** (failure to act with reasonable diligence and promptness); **Rule 1.4(a)(3)** (failure to keep her client reasonably informed); **Rule 1.4(a)(5)** (failure to consult with client about relevant limitation on her conduct); **Rule 1.4(b)** (failure to explain a matter to extent reasonably necessary to permit client to make informed decisions); and **Rule 1.16(d)** (terminated representation without taking steps to protect client’s interests). Solomon withdrew as counsel for a client in a Family Court matter after the client filed a disciplinary complaint against her with the Office of Disciplinary Counsel. She then neglected to notify the client of her withdrawal, provide him with copies of filings by opposing counsel, or advise him of a scheduled teleconference with Family Court. The Court concluded that Solomon knowingly abandoned the client which caused actual injury.